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# CENTRAL SIMPLE ALGEBRAS AND GALOIS REPRESENTATIONS OF CLASS TWO

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**Abstract** We investigate class two representations of the absolute Galois group  $\mathcal{G}_k$  of a number field  $k$  by using central simple algebras which are constructed from symplectic pairings on  $\mathcal{G}_k$ .

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## Introduction and statement of results

The basic idea of the present paper is to view a class two representation of the absolute Galois group of a field as a solution of a certain central embedding problem for this Galois group. According to [2] and [7] this embedding problem can be investigated by applying the theory of central simple algebras. Similar methods have been used by the author in previous papers already, see e.g. [12], [13], but in situations which are different from the present one or under special assumptions only.

Let us state some of the main results in a preliminary form; for precise definitions and formulations see §2 and §3. For any field  $k$  denote by  $\mathcal{G}_k$  the absolute Galois group of  $k$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is the Galois group  $G(\bar{k}/k)$  of a fixed separable algebraic closure  $\bar{k}$  of  $k$ . Furthermore let  $W$  denote the group of all roots of unity in  $\mathbb{C}$  and for any positive integer  $d$  denote by  $W_d$  the group of all roots of unity of order dividing  $d$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . By a representation of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  of degree  $n$  we mean a continuous homomorphism  $D : \mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ , where  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is regarded as a topological group with respect to the profinite topology and  $GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  is regarded as a topological group with respect to the discrete topology. The character of a representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ , i.e. the function  $\mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\sigma \mapsto \text{trace}(D(\sigma))$ , is said to be *rational* over a subfield  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  if all its values belong to  $E$ . Assume that  $k$  is a number field. For every place  $v$  of  $k$  let  $\bar{v}$  be an extension of  $v$  to  $\bar{k}$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{G}_{k, \bar{v}}$  the decomposition group of  $\bar{v}$  and by  $I_{k, \bar{v}}$  its inertia group. We often view  $\bar{k}$  as being embedded into the union  $\mathcal{K}(k, \bar{v})$  of the completions  $K_{\bar{v}}$  of all finite subextensions  $K/k$  of  $\bar{k}/k$ .  $\mathcal{K}(k, \bar{v})$  is an algebraic closure  $\bar{k}_v$  of  $k_v$ , and the decomposition group  $\mathcal{G}_{k, \bar{v}}$  is isomorphic to the Galois group  $G(\bar{k}_v/k_v)$ . A representation of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is said to be unramified at a place  $v$  of  $k$  if for some extension  $\bar{v}$  of  $v$  to  $\bar{k}$  the inertia group  $I_{k, \bar{v}}$  is contained in the kernel of  $D$ . A representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  is said to be of class two if  $D$  is irreducible and if the factor group of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  modulo the kernel of  $D$  is a finite

nonabelian nilpotent group of class two. The following finiteness result will be shown.

**Theorem 1** *Let  $k$  be a number field. Assume that  $h$  is a positive integer and that  $S$  is a finite set of places of  $k$  which contains all places above  $h$  and infinity. Then there are only finitely many isomorphism classes of representations of class two of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  which are unramified at all places  $v$  of  $k$  such that  $v \notin S$  and whose characters are rational over the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_h)$ .*

Note that in this result the degree of the representations is not prescribed.

In order to state the next result assume that  $D$  is a representation of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  of class two. Then for all  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{G}_k$  the commutator  $[D(\sigma), D(\tau)]$  is a scalar matrix  $\omega(\sigma, \tau)Id$ . In this way we get a continuous symplectic pairing  $\omega = \omega_D : \mathcal{G}_k \times \mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*, (\sigma, \tau) \mapsto \omega(\sigma, \tau)$ , which is uniquely determined by the set of representations of the form  $\lambda \otimes D'$ , where  $D'$  is any representation isomorphic to  $D$  and  $\lambda : \mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  is any continuous linear character of  $\mathcal{G}_k$ . The radical of  $\omega$  is an open subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  which by Galois theory corresponds to a finite Galois subextension  $K^\omega/k$  of  $\bar{k}/k$ . Denote by  $m(\omega)$  the order of  $\omega$ . Now assume that  $k$  is a number field. For any place  $v$  of  $k$  denote, as before, by  $\bar{v}$  some extension of  $v$  to  $\bar{k}$ . If  $K/k$  is a subextension of  $\bar{k}/k$  then we denote by  $\bar{v}$  also the restriction of  $\bar{v}$  to  $K$ , and if  $K/k$  is Galois with Galois group  $G(K/k)$  then  $G(K/k)_{\bar{v}}$  denotes the decomposition subgroup of  $G(K/k)$  which corresponds to the restriction of  $\bar{v}$  to  $K$ . For every place  $v$  of  $k$  denote by  $m(\omega_{\bar{v}})$  the order of the restriction  $\omega_{\bar{v}}$  of  $\omega$  to the decomposition group  $\mathcal{G}_{k, \bar{v}}$ ; if  $\tilde{v}$  is another extension of  $v$  to  $\bar{k}$  then  $m(\omega_{\bar{v}}) = m(\omega_{\tilde{v}})$ . For any positive integer  $d$  let  $\mu_d$  denote the group of all roots of unity of order dividing  $d$  in  $\bar{k}$  and for any multiple  $n(\omega)$  of  $m(\omega)$  let  $S(n(\omega))$  denote the finite set of places of  $k$  which consists of all places of  $k$  which are ramified in the extension  $K^\omega/k$  and all places of  $k$  which divide  $n(\omega)$  and all the infinite places of  $k$ . Put  $\underline{m}(\omega) := 2 \cdot m(\omega)$  if  $m(\omega)$  is even and  $\underline{m}(\omega) := m(\omega)$  if  $m(\omega)$  is odd.

**Definition** Let  $b(\omega)$  denote the smallest multiple  $b$  of  $\underline{m}(\omega)$  such that all the congruences  $(k(\mu_b)_{\bar{v}} : k(\mu_{\underline{m}(\omega)})_{\bar{v}}) \equiv 0 \pmod{m(\omega_{\bar{v}})}$ ,  $v \in S(m(\omega))$ , are satisfied.

The existence of  $b(\omega)$  is easy to verify; it follows also from a stronger result in [23], proof of lemma, p. 192. We will mention examples of nontrivial  $\omega$  such that  $\omega_{\bar{v}}$  is trivial for all places  $v$  of  $k$  and therefore  $b(\omega) = \underline{m}(\omega)$ . These examples are related to the Hasse norm principle.

It will be seen later that for every class two representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  every subfield  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  such that the character of  $D$  is rational over  $E$  contains the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\omega_D)})$ , and we will prove

**Theorem 2** *Let  $k$  be a number field. Then for every class two representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  with symplectic pairing  $\omega = \omega_D$  there is a linear character  $\lambda : \mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  such that the character of the representation  $\lambda \otimes D$  is rational over  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{2 \cdot b(\omega)})$ .*

In §3 we will point out a condition which implies that the linear character  $\lambda : \mathcal{G}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  in Theorem 2 can be chosen in such a way that the character of  $\lambda \otimes D$  is not only rational over  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{2,b(\omega)})$  but that  $\lambda \otimes D$  is also unramified outside  $S(b(\omega))$ . This condition is known to hold for  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  and in many other situations. We will also discuss an example in the case  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  which is related to the Schur index problem for the irreducible characters of a certain finite group and an example in the case  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[2]{-1})$  which is related to the theory of complex multiplication.

### §1. Symplectic pairings, central embedding problems and central simple algebras

For any profinite group  $\mathcal{G}$  put  $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{G}'$  where  $\mathcal{G}'$  is the closed commutator subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ . Assume that  $\omega : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  is a continuous symplectic pairing, i.e.  $\omega$  is bimultiplicative, symplectic and continuous with respect to the profinite topology on  $\mathcal{A}$  and the discrete topology on  $\mathbb{C}^*$ . It follows that the radical  $\mathcal{R}(\omega) := \{\sigma \in \mathcal{A} : \omega(\sigma, \tau) = 1 \text{ for all } \tau \in \mathcal{A}\}$  is a closed normal subgroup of finite index in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Put  $G(\omega) := \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{R}(\omega)$ . Then  $\omega$  induces a nondegenerate symplectic pairing  $\varpi : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ . Denote by  $m(\omega)$  the order of  $\omega$ . The "symplectic pair"  $(G(\omega), \varpi)$  can be decomposed as an orthogonal sum of hyperbolic symplectic pairs, and therefore there are maximal  $\varpi$ -isotropic subgroups  $A, B$  of  $G(\omega)$  such that  $A \cong B$  and  $G(\omega) = A \times B$ ; see e.g. [25], proof of proposition 6.2. Because of an analogy with physics such a pair of subgroups  $A, B$  of  $G(\omega)$  is called a *Lagrangian pair* for  $(G(\omega), \varpi)$ . The continuous symplectic pairings  $\omega : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  form a group  $PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  under pointwise defined multiplication. For any profinite group  $\mathcal{F}$  and any discrete abelian group  $M$  denote by  $H^2(\mathcal{F}, M)$  the second cohomology group of  $\mathcal{F}$  with respect to the trivial action of  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $M$ . It is well known that the class  $(t) \in H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  of an arbitrary central 2-cocycle  $t : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  yields the continuous symplectic pairing  $\omega_{(t)} : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ , where  $\omega_{(t)}(\sigma, \tau) := t(\sigma, \tau)/t(\tau, \sigma)$  for all  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{A}$ , and that the resulting mapping

$$\beta : H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*), \quad (t) \mapsto \omega_{(t)},$$

is an isomorphism. In the case of finite groups this result is shown e.g. in [25], corollary 2, p.161; it is easily extended to the profinite situation. We note also that for every profinite quotient group  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  the inflation homomorphism

$$\inf : H^2(\mathcal{B}, \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$$

is injective because every continuous homomorphism of a closed subgroup of  $\mathcal{A}$  can be extended to a continuous homomorphism of  $\mathcal{A}$  and therefore the corresponding transgression homomorphism in the exact Hochschild-Serre sequence is trivial, which implies the assertion. For every  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  the preimage

$\beta^{-1}(\omega) \in H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  of  $\omega$  under  $\beta$  is contained in the image of the inflation homomorphism  $\text{inf} : H^2(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$ ; and there is a *central 2-cocycle*  $\varepsilon$  of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ , which by definition means that there is a central 2-cocycle  $\varepsilon : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \rightarrow W_{m(\omega)}$  such that the image of  $(\varepsilon) \in H^2(G(\omega), W_{m(\omega)})$  under the homomorphism

$$H^2(G(\omega), W_{m(\omega)}) \xrightarrow{W_{m(\omega)} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}^*} H^2(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*) \xrightarrow{\text{inf}} H^2(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$$

is  $\beta^{-1}(\omega)$ . In fact, choose a Lagrangian pair  $(A, B)$  for  $(G(\omega), \varpi)$ . Then the mapping  $\varepsilon : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \rightarrow W_{m(\omega)}$  defined by  $\varepsilon(ab, a'b') := \omega(a, b')$  for all  $a, a' \in A, b, b' \in B$ , is bimultiplicative and satisfies  $\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau)/\varepsilon(\tau, \sigma) = \omega(\sigma, \tau)$  for all  $\sigma, \tau \in G(\omega)$ , hence is a central 2-cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . For every central 2-cocycle  $\varepsilon$  of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$  and any multiple  $\tilde{m}$  of  $m(\omega)$  denote by

$$1 \rightarrow W_{\tilde{m}} \rightarrow E(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}}) \rightarrow G(\omega) \rightarrow 1$$

the group extension which is defined by the cocycle

$$\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}} : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} W_{m(\omega)} \hookrightarrow W_{\tilde{m}}.$$

Using [7], section 1, we get

**(1.1) Proposition** *The embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}})$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  which is defined by this group extension is solvable, i.e. there is a homomorphism  $\phi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow E(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}})$  such that  $\phi$  composed with the epimorphism  $E(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}}) \rightarrow G(\omega)$  yields the natural epimorphism  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow G(\omega) = \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{R}(\omega)$ , if and only if  $(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}})$  is contained in the kernel of the inflation homomorphism  $\text{inf} : H^2(G(\omega), W_{\tilde{m}}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{G}, W_{\tilde{m}})$ .*

Some profinite groups  $\mathcal{G}$  are known which have the so called inflation property:

**(1.2) Inflation property** *The inflation homomorphism  $\text{inf} : H^2(\mathcal{A}, W) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{G}, W)$  is trivial.*

We note that  $H^2(\mathcal{G}, W) \cong H^2(\mathcal{G}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and get the following well known result which is important for the purposes of the present paper.

**(1.3) Proposition** *The inflation property (1.2) implies that for any  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  there is a central 2-cocycle  $\varepsilon$  of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$  and a multiple  $\tilde{m}$  of  $m(\omega)$  such that the embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}})$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  is solvable.*

For the sake of completeness we recall the easy proof : Let  $\varepsilon : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \rightarrow W_{m(\omega)}$  be a central 2-cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . The inflation property (1.2) implies that there is a continuous function  $\alpha : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow W$  such that

$\varepsilon(\sigma\mathcal{R}(\omega), \tau\mathcal{R}(\omega)) = \alpha(\sigma)\alpha(\tau)/\alpha(\sigma\tau)$  for all  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{G}$ . Hence  $\alpha^{m(\omega)} : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow W$  is a continuous homomorphism, of order  $l$  say. Then for  $\tilde{m} := m(\omega) \cdot l$  the image of  $(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), \tilde{m}}) \in H^2(G(\omega), W_{\tilde{m}})$  under the inflation homomorphism  $\text{inf} : H^2(G(\omega), W_{\tilde{m}}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{G}, W_{\tilde{m}})$  is trivial. The assertion follows by applying (1.1).

Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic 0 with algebraic closure  $\bar{k}$  and absolute Galois group  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_k := G(\bar{k}/k)$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{A}_k := \mathcal{G}_k/\mathcal{G}'_k$  is the Galois group of the maximal abelian subextension  $k^{ab}/k$  of  $\bar{k}/k$ . For any  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$  denote by  $K^\omega \subset k^{ab}$  the fix field corresponding to  $\mathcal{R}(\omega)$  by Galois theory; so  $G(\omega) = G(K^\omega/k)$  is the Galois group of  $K^\omega/k$ . We identify the group  $\bar{\mu} = \mu(\bar{k})$  of all roots of unity in  $\bar{k}$  with the group  $W$  of all roots of unity in  $\mathbb{C}^*$  and thereby we get, for every positive integer  $d$ , an isomorphism of the group  $\mu_d = \mu_d(\bar{k})$  of roots of unity of order dividing  $d$  in  $\bar{k}^*$  onto  $W_d$ . Let  $\varepsilon : G(\omega) \times G(\omega) \rightarrow W_{m(\omega)} \cong \mu_{m(\omega)}$  be a central 2-cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . Put  $G_{m(\omega)} := G(K^\omega(\mu_{m(\omega)})/k(\mu_{m(\omega)}))$  and denote by  $\varepsilon_{/m(\omega)}$  the restriction of  $\varepsilon$  to  $G_{m(\omega)} \times G_{m(\omega)}$ . Then the crossed product algebra

$$A(\omega, \varepsilon) := (K^\omega(\mu_{m(\omega)})/k(\mu_{m(\omega)}), \varepsilon_{/m(\omega)}),$$

which is defined by  $\varepsilon_{/m(\omega)}$ , is a central simple  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})$ -algebra of exponent dividing  $m(\omega)$ ; see e.g. [5], V, §1. We will make use of the following well known result of Tate [22]; for a proof see e.g. [16], §6.

**Theorem** (Tate) *If  $k$  is a local or global number field then the cohomology group  $H^2(\mathcal{G}_k, W)$  is trivial.*

From this result it is obvious that the inflation property (1.2) holds for  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_k$  where  $k$  is a local or global number field. We recall that for a number field  $k$  every solvable embedding problem with abelian kernel for  $\mathcal{G}_k$  has a proper, i.e. surjective, solution; comp. [8] or [7], (6.7), p. 101, and therefore in the number field case we assume that solutions of our central embedding problems are always proper.

(1.4) **Proposition** *Assume that  $k$  is a number field and let  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$ . Denote by  $b(\omega)$  the integer defined in the introduction. Assume that  $\varepsilon$  is a bimultiplicative cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . Then  $k(\mu_{b(\omega)})$  is a splitting field for  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ .*

Proof: For every place  $v$  of  $k$  and any extension  $\bar{v}$  of  $v$  to  $\bar{k}$  denote by  $A_{\bar{v}} = A(\omega, \varepsilon)_{\bar{v}}$  the central simple  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})_{\bar{v}}$ -algebra  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})_{\bar{v}} \otimes A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ . At first we show that the exponent of  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})_{\bar{v}} \otimes A(\omega, \varepsilon)_{\bar{v}}$  divides the order  $m(\omega_{\bar{v}})$  of the restriction of  $\omega$  to  $\mathcal{G}_{k, \bar{v}}$ . In order to see this we modify an argument in [13], proof of (1.4). Since  $\omega^{m(\omega_{\bar{v}})}$  is trivial on  $G(K^\omega/k)_{\bar{v}}$  there is a function  $\alpha_{\bar{v}} : G(K^\omega/k)_{\bar{v}} \rightarrow W \cong \bar{\mu}$  such that  $\varepsilon^{m(\omega_{\bar{v}})}(\sigma, \tau) = \alpha_{\bar{v}}(\sigma)\alpha_{\bar{v}}(\tau)/\alpha_{\bar{v}}(\sigma\tau)$  for all

$\sigma, \tau \in G(K^\omega/k)_{\overline{v}}$ . Then, since  $\varepsilon$  is bimultiplicative and since the exponent of  $G(K^\omega/k)$  divides  $m(\omega)$ , we have

$$\alpha_{\overline{v}}(\sigma)^{\underline{m}(\omega)} = \prod_{i=1}^{\underline{m}(\omega)} \varepsilon^{m(\omega\overline{\tau})}(\sigma, \sigma^i) = \varepsilon(\sigma, \sigma)^{m(\omega\overline{\tau})(\underline{m}(\omega)(\underline{m}(\omega)+1)/2)} = 1$$

for all  $\sigma \in G(K^\omega/k)_{\overline{v}}$ . Therefore  $\varepsilon^{m(\omega\overline{\tau})}$  splits as a Galois cocycle over  $k(\mu_{\underline{m}(\omega)})_{\overline{v}}$ . According to the "multiplication theorem" for crossed product algebras, see [5], V, §2, Satz 1, this implies that  $k(\mu_{\underline{m}(\omega)})_{\overline{v}}$  is a splitting field of the  $m(\omega\overline{\tau})$ -fold tensor product of  $k(\mu_{\underline{m}(\omega)})_{\overline{v}} \otimes A_{\overline{v}}$ , and therefore the exponent of  $k(\mu_{\underline{m}(\omega)})_{\overline{v}} \otimes A_{\overline{v}}$  divides  $m(\omega\overline{\tau})$ . Hence the local theory of central simple algebras implies that the field  $k(\mu_{b(\omega)})_{\overline{v}}$  splits  $A_{\overline{v}}$  for all  $v \in S(m(\omega))$ , comp. [5], VII, §2, Satz 4. And  $A_{\overline{v}}$  splits for all  $v \notin S(\omega)$  because the extension  $K^\omega(\mu_{m(\omega)})/k(\mu_{m(\omega)})$  is unramified at all places which extend the places  $v \notin S(m(\omega))$  and because all values of the cocycle  $\varepsilon$  are roots of unity; comp. [5], VII, §1. Therefore by the local global principle in the theory of central simple algebras over number fields, comp. [5], VII, §5, Satz 1, the field  $k(\mu_{b(\omega)})$  splits the central simple  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})$ -algebra  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ .

If  $\overline{\omega} \in PS(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*)$  belongs to the kernel  $\mathcal{H}(K^\omega/k)$  of the localization map  $PS(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow \prod_v PS(G(\omega)_{\overline{v}}, \mathbb{C}^*)$ , we have  $m(\omega\overline{\tau}) = 1$  for all places  $v$  of  $k$ . So (1.4) implies the following result which is implicit in [13], (1.4), and which is related to a result in [21], (3.4.10), p. 101, on central extensions defined by the obstruction to the validity of the Hasse norm principle for abelian extensions.

(1.5) **Proposition** *If  $\overline{\omega} \in \mathcal{H}(K^\omega/k)$  is nontrivial, then  $b(\omega) = \underline{m}(\omega)$ .*

In order to explain the relation of this result to the Hasse norm principle we recall that according to [3], § 20, Theorem 20.6, p. 101, and [23], p. 198, for every finite Galois extension  $K/k$  of number fields the kernel of the localization homomorphism

$$H^2(G(K/k), \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow \prod_v H^2(G(K/k)_{\overline{v}}, \mathbb{C}^*)$$

is dual to the group

$$\mathcal{K}(K/k) := \frac{\{a \in k^* : a \text{ is a norm locally everywhere in } K/k\}}{\{a \in k^* : a \text{ is a norm in } K/k\}},$$

which is the obstruction to the validity of the Hasse norm principle for  $K/k$ . Using for instance example 1 on p. 297 in [15] it is easy to construct examples of symplectic pairings  $\omega$  such that the assumption in (1.5) is satisfied. Namely assume that  $K/k$  is a Galois extension with Galois group  $G(K/k)$  isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  for a prime number  $p$  such that there is no finite place of  $k$  which

is the power of a place of  $K$  and let  $\omega$  be a symplectic pairing on  $\mathcal{G}_k$  which is inflated from a symplectic pairing  $\overline{\omega}$  of order  $p$  on  $G(K/k)$ . Then  $K = K^\omega$  and  $\overline{\omega} \in \mathcal{H}(K^\omega/k)$ .

For other relations between symplectic pairings and the Hasse norm principle see [15], especially §5.

Now we relate the algebra  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$  to the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon)$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$ . For this purpose we recall first that for any positive integer  $d$  and any finite set of places  $S$  of the number field  $k$  the triple  $(k, d, S)$  is said to be in the *special case*, if  $S$  contains all places  $v$  above 2 such that for  $d = 2^t m$  with  $m$  odd the extension  $k_v(\mu_{2^t})/k_v$  is not cyclic; comp. [11], p. 90, and [1], p. 96. Obviously, if  $d$  is odd or if  $k$  contains a root of unity of order 4, then the triple  $(k, d, S)$  is not in the special case.

For every  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and any multiple  $n(\omega)$  of  $m(\omega)$  define  $\overline{n}(\omega) := 2 \cdot n(\omega)$ , if the triple  $(k, n(\omega), S(n(\omega)))$  is in the special case, and  $\overline{n}(\omega) := n(\omega)$  otherwise; here  $S(n(\omega))$  is the finite set of all places of  $k$  which are ramified in  $K^\omega/k$  and all places of  $k$  dividing  $n(\omega)$  and all infinite places of  $k$ .

**(1.6) Proposition** *Assume that  $k$  is a number field. Let  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and let  $\varepsilon$  be a central 2-cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . Assume that  $n(\omega)$  is a multiple of  $m(\omega)$  such that  $k(\mu_{n(\omega)})$  is a splitting field for  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ . Then the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \overline{n}(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is solvable.*

Applying (1.4) this result implies

**(1.7) Corollary** *Assume that  $k$  is a number field. Let  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and let  $\varepsilon$  be a central 2-cocycle for  $\omega$  of order  $m(\omega)$ . Then the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \overline{b}(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is solvable.*

Proof of (1.6): It follows from [7], section 5, that all the central embedding problems for the decomposition groups  $\mathcal{G}_{k, \overline{v}}$ ,  $v$  any place of  $k$ , which arise from the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), n(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$ , are solvable. Therefore according to [7], section 1, the image of  $(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), n(\omega)}) \in H^2(G(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)})$  under the inflation homomorphism  $\text{inf} : H^2(G(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathcal{G}_k, \mu_{n(\omega)})$  is contained in the kernel of the localization homomorphism

$$H^2(\mathcal{G}_k, \mu_{n(\omega)}) \rightarrow \prod_v H^2(\mathcal{G}_{k, \overline{v}}, \mu_{n(\omega)}).$$

The global duality theorem of Tate and Poitou [14], [22] implies that this kernel is dual to  $\kappa(k, n(\omega))$  where for any positive integer  $d$

$$\kappa(k, d) := \{\alpha \in k^* : \alpha \in k_v^d \text{ for all places } v \text{ of } k\} / (k^*)^d,$$



Denote by  $S_d$  a finite set of places of  $k$  which contains all places dividing  $d$ .  $\kappa(k, d)$  is known to be trivial if the triple  $(k, d, S_d)$  is not in the special case and of order at most 2 in any case, see [1], p. 96 ff. It is well known that the restriction of the homomorphism

$$H^2(\mathcal{G}_k, \mu_{n(\omega)}) \xrightarrow{\mu_{n(\omega)} \hookrightarrow \mu_{2 \cdot n(\omega)}} H^2(\mathcal{G}_k, \mu_{2 \cdot n(\omega)})$$

to the kernel of the above localization homomorphism is dual to the homomorphism  $\kappa(k, 2 \cdot n(\omega)) \rightarrow \kappa(k, n(\omega))$  induced by  $(k^*)^{2n(\omega)} \hookrightarrow (k^*)^{n(\omega)}$ , which is trivial. The assertion follows.

For any positive integer  $n$  and any finite set of places  $S$  of  $k$  which contains all places above  $n$  and infinity define

$$U(n, S) := \left\{ a \in k^* : (a) = \mathfrak{a}^n \text{ for some fractional ideal } \mathfrak{a} \text{ of } k, \right. \\ \left. \text{and } a \in (k_v^*)^n \text{ for all } v \in S \right\}.$$

(1.8) **Remark** It follows from [11], (8.2), S.104, that the condition  $U(n, S) = (k^*)^n$  holds for  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  and arbitrary  $n$ ; and the remarks in [11], p. 103, following (8.1), show that the condition  $U(n, S) = (k^*)^n$  holds also if  $n$  is a power of an odd prime number  $p$  such that the class number of the cyclotomic extension  $k(\mu_n)$  is prime to  $p$ .

[11], (8.1), p.102/103 implies

(1.9) **Remark** For every  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and every central 2-cocycle  $\varepsilon$  of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$  the condition  $U(\bar{b}(\omega), S(\bar{b}(\omega))) = (k^*)^{\bar{b}(\omega)}$  assures that the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \bar{b}(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$  has a solution which is unramified outside  $S(b(\omega))$ .

In the following examples symplectic pairings  $\omega$  and upper bounds for  $b(\omega)$  are constructed.

(1.10) **Examples** (a) Assume that  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mathbb{C}^*)$ . Then by the Kronecker-Weber theorem, see e.g. [1], Chapter 8, Theorem 6, p. 74, there is a positive integer  $f$  such that the abelian extension  $K^\omega/\mathbb{Q}$  is contained in the cyclotomic extension  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_f)/\mathbb{Q}$ . The smallest  $f$  with this property is denoted by  $f(\omega)$  and is called the *conductor of*  $\omega$ . Denote by  $g(\omega)$  the lcm of  $f(\omega)$  and  $m(\omega)$ . Then obviously the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{g(\omega)})$  is a splitting field for the central simple  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})$ -algebra  $A(\omega, \varepsilon) = (K^\omega(\mu_{m(\omega)})/\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)}), \varepsilon_{/m(\omega)})$  for every central 2-cocycle  $\varepsilon$  of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ , and therefore according to (1.6), (1.8) and (1.9) the central embedding problem  $E(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), \bar{g}(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{Q}}$  has a solution which is unramified outside  $S(\bar{g}(\omega))$ . This observation is closely related to theorem 3, p. 242, in [6] and theorem 1.4, p. 349, in [17].

Note that there are some restrictions for a natural number to be the conductor of a symplectic pairing  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mathbb{C}^*)$ . Namely, since  $G(\omega) = G(K^\omega/\mathbb{Q})$  is isomorphic to a direct product of isomorphic abelian groups, the Galois group of the extension  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{f(\omega)})/\mathbb{Q}$  is not cyclic and its order  $\varphi(f(\omega))$  is divisible by a square. Note also that for  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  the crossed product algebra  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$  is a so called *cyclotomic algebra* in the sense of [24], Chapter 2, and therefore is isomorphic to a simple component of a group algebra of a finite group  $H$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})$ ; in fact,  $H$  can be taken to be any group extension

$$1 \rightarrow \mu_{g(\omega)} \rightarrow H \rightarrow G(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{g(\omega)})/\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})) \rightarrow 1$$

corresponding to the 2-cocycle class

$$\inf((\varepsilon_m)) \in H^2(G(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{g(\omega)})/\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})), \mu_{g(\omega)});$$

comp. [24], chapter 2. So one can apply results about splitting fields of representations of finite groups in the present situation. For instance, applying a result of L. Solomon, see e.g. [9], (10.14), p. 168/169, one finds that the field  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{2l}, \mu_{m(\omega)})$ , where  $l$  is the product of all prime divisors of  $|H| = g(\omega)\varphi(g(\omega))/\varphi(m(\omega))$ , splits  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ ; here  $\varphi$  denotes the Euler function. It is easy to construct examples where the degree of the last mentioned splitting field  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{2l}, \mu_{m(\omega)})$  is strictly smaller than the degree of the splitting field  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{g(\omega)})$  given above. For instance, the Galois group  $G(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{63})/\mathbb{Q}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z})^* \times (\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^*$  is a direct product of two cyclic groups of order 6, and therefore carries a nondegenerate symplectic pairing  $\omega$  of order  $m(\omega) = 6$ . And  $g(\omega) = \text{lcm}(m(\omega), f(\omega)) = \text{lcm}(6, 63) = 2 \cdot 7 \cdot 9$ ,  $\varphi(g(\omega))/\varphi(m(\omega)) = 3 \cdot 6$ ,  $2 \cdot l = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$ , hence  $(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{g(\omega)}) : \mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})) = 18$  and  $(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{2l}, \mu_{m(\omega)}) : \mathbb{Q}(\mu_{m(\omega)})) = 12$ .

(b) Assume that  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{-1})$ . In this case it is well known from the theory of complex multiplication, see [10], part two, Chapter 10, §1, Theorem 2, that every abelian extension is contained in the field  $k(X_f)$  for some positive integer  $f$  where  $X_f$  denotes the group of torsion points over  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  of the elliptic curve  $X : y^2 = x^3 + x$ ; comp. also [19], chapter 8, for an elementary discussion of this result. It follows from the general theory of elliptic curves over number fields that  $k(X_f)$  contains  $\mu_f$ , see [18], III, §8, Corollary 8.1.1. Moreover since 2 is the only prime number which divides the discriminant of  $X$  the extension  $k(X_f)/k$  is unramified outside the set of places of  $k$  which divide 2 and  $f$ , see [18], VII, §7, Theorem 7.1. And the Galois group  $G(k(X_f)/k)$  is isomorphic to the group of units  $(A/fA)^*$  of the quotient ring  $A/fA$ , where  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[3]{-1}]$  is the ring of Gaussian integers, see [10], Chapter 10, §4, Theorem 8. If  $f$  is a prime number  $\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then  $A/fA$  is a finite field, hence the Galois group  $G(k(X_f)/k) \cong (A/fA)^*$  is cyclic and therefore does not carry nontrivial symplectic pairings. However if  $f = p$  is a prime  $\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  then  $p$  splits in  $A$  as a product of complex conjugate prime elements; hence  $G(k(X_p)/k) \cong (A/fA)^* \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^* \times (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$  has nontrivial symplectic pairings  $\omega$  of order  $m(\omega)$  dividing  $p-1$  such that  $K^\omega \subset k(X_p)$ . So assume that  $p$  is a prime number

$\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Fix a nontrivial symplectic pairing  $\omega$  on  $G(k(X_p)/k)$  of order  $m(\omega)$  dividing  $p-1$ , and let  $\varepsilon$  be a central 2-cocycle of order  $m(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ . There is a positive integer  $r$  such that the field  $k(\mu_{(p-1)^r})$  splits the central simple  $k(\mu_{m(\omega)})$ -algebra  $A(\omega, \varepsilon)$ . Therefore according to (1.6) the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), (p-1)^r})$  for  $\mathcal{G}_k$  is solvable.

## §2. Algebraic description of class two representations

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a profinite group. In this section we give a description of class two representations of  $\mathcal{G}$  which is based on Clifford's theory [4]. By a linear resp. projective representation of  $\mathcal{G}$  we mean a continuous homomorphism  $D : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  resp.  $P : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow PGL(n, \mathbb{C})$  for some positive integer  $n$  which is called the degree of  $D$  resp.  $P$ ; here  $\mathcal{G}$  is regarded as a topological group with respect to the profinite topology and  $GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  resp.  $PGL(n, \mathbb{C})$  is regarded as a topological group with respect to the discrete topology. The kernel of any linear or projective representation of  $\mathcal{G}$  is a closed normal subgroup of finite index in  $\mathcal{G}$ . The character of a linear representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}$ , i.e. the function  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \sigma \mapsto \text{trace}(D(\sigma))$ , is said to be *rational* over a subfield  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  if all its values belong to  $E$ . A linear representation  $D : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  is said to be of class two if  $D$  is irreducible and if the image of the corresponding projective representation  $\overline{D} : \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{D} GL(n, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow PGL(n, \mathbb{C})$  is a nontrivial abelian group, or, what amounts to the same, if the finite group  $\mathcal{G}/\text{Ker}(D)$  is a nonabelian nilpotent group of class two. By a linear character of  $\mathcal{G}$  we mean a linear representation of  $\mathcal{G}$  of degree 1.

Assume now that  $\mathcal{G}$  has the inflation property (1.2). Using the profinite version of the Hochschild-Serre exact sequence, see e.g. [20], Chapter II, §4, we see that every  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  is *transgressive*, i.e. there is a  $G(\omega)$ -invariant linear character  $\chi : \mathcal{R}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  such that the image of  $\chi$  under the composition of the transgression homomorphism

$$tr : \text{Hom}(\mathcal{R}(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*)^{G(\omega)} \rightarrow H^2(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*),$$

which is defined by the group extension  $1 \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow G(\omega) \rightarrow 1$ , and the isomorphism  $\beta : H^2(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*) \rightarrow PS(G(\omega), \mathbb{C}^*)$ , which was explained in §1, is equal to  $\omega$ . We call any  $G(\omega)$ -invariant linear character  $\chi : \mathcal{R}(\omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  with this property a *central character for  $\omega$*  and the pair  $(\omega, \chi)$  a *central pair* of  $\mathcal{G}$ . For such a central pair  $(\omega, \chi)$  Clifford's theory [4] implies that the induced representation  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi)$  is isomorphic to the  $n$ -fold direct sum of an irreducible linear representation  $D = D(\omega, \chi)$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  of degree  $n$ , where  $n = (\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{R}(\omega))^{1/2}$ , and that the restriction of  $D(\omega, \chi)$  to  $\mathcal{R}(\omega)$  is isomorphic to the  $n$ -fold sum of  $\chi$ :

$$(2.1) \quad \text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi) \cong n \cdot D(\omega, \chi), \text{Res}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(D(\omega, \chi)) \cong n \cdot \chi, \quad n = (\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{R}(\omega))^{1/2}$$

It follows that for  $m(\omega) \neq 1$  the image of the projective representation defined by  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is a nontrivial abelian group and therefore  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is of class two. Moreover, the formulas in (2.1) show that the character of  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is rational over the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\chi)})$  where  $m(\chi)$  is the order of  $\chi$ . Since the order  $m(\omega)$  of  $\omega$  divides the order  $m(\chi)$  of any central character  $\chi$  for  $\omega$  the field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\omega)})$  is contained in  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\chi)})$ . (2.1) implies also that every subfield  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  over which the character of  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is rational contains all values of  $\chi$ . Furthermore, two central pairs  $(\omega, \chi), (\omega', \chi')$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  coincide if and only if  $D(\omega, \chi) \cong D(\omega', \chi')$ . Conversely, for every class two representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  there is a central pair  $(\omega, \chi)$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  such that  $D \cong D(\omega, \chi)$ . In fact, by Schur's lemma the kernel of the projective representation  $\overline{D} : \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{D} GL(n, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow PGL(n, \mathbb{C})$  arising from  $D$  is equal to  $\mathcal{R}(\omega)$  where  $\omega : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  is the symplectic commutator pairing given by

$$\omega(\sigma \bmod \mathcal{G}', \tau \bmod \mathcal{G}') \cdot Id := [D(\sigma), D(\tau)], \quad \sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{G},$$

and the restriction of  $D$  to  $\mathcal{R}(\omega)$  is isomorphic to  $n \cdot \chi$ , where  $\chi$  is a central character for  $\omega$ ; for the case of finite groups this is implicit in [25], (1.4). Hence by Frobenius reciprocity  $n = (\chi, \text{Res}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(D)) = (\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi), D)$ , and therefore  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi) \cong n \cdot D$  which implies  $D \cong D(\omega, \chi)$ . Altogether we have shown

**(2.2) Proposition** *Assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  has the inflation property (1.2). Then the assignment  $(\omega, \chi) \mapsto D(\omega, \chi)$  induces a bijective correspondence between the set of central pairs  $(\omega, \chi)$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  with nontrivial  $\omega$  and the set of isomorphism classes of class two representations of  $\mathcal{G}$ . The character of every representation  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is rational over the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\chi)})$ , and every subfield  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  over which the character of  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is rational contains the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\chi)})$ ; moreover,  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\chi)})$  contains  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{m(\omega)})$ .*

Two linear representations  $D_1, D_2$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  are said to belong to the same *genus* if there is a linear character  $\lambda$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  such that  $D_2 \cong \lambda \cdot D_1$ . This is an equivalence relation which is compatible with the class two property. If  $D_1 \cong D(\omega_1, \chi_1)$ ,  $D_2 \cong D(\omega_2, \chi_2)$  and  $D_2 \cong \lambda \cdot D_1$  for some linear character  $\lambda$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  then  $\overline{D_2} \cong \overline{D_1}$ ,  $\omega_2 = \omega_1 = \omega$  and  $\chi_2 = \text{Res}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\lambda) \cdot \chi_1$ . Conversely, if  $\omega_2 = \omega_1 = \omega$  and if  $\chi_2, \chi_1$  are central characters for  $\omega$ , then the Hochschild-Serre exact sequence shows that there is a linear character  $\lambda$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  such that  $\chi_2 = \text{Res}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\lambda) \cdot \chi_1$ , and then by Frobenius reciprocity  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi_2) \cong \lambda \cdot \text{Ind}_{\mathcal{R}(\omega)}^{\mathcal{G}}(\chi_1)$  which implies  $D(\omega_2, \chi_2) \cong \lambda \cdot D(\omega_1, \chi_1)$ . These considerations prove

**(2.3) Proposition** *Assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  has the inflation property (1.2). Then the assignment  $\omega \mapsto \text{genus of } D(\omega, \chi)$ , where  $\chi$  is any central character for  $\omega$ ,*

gives a bijective correspondence between the nontrivial elements in  $PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and the set of genera of class two representations of  $\mathcal{G}$ .

Finally we connect the central embedding problems which were considered in §1 with central characters.

(2.4) **Lemma** *Assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  has the inflation property (1.2). Let  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{C}^*)$  and let  $\varepsilon$  be a central 2-cocycle for  $\omega$  of order  $m(\omega)$ . Furthermore, let  $n(\omega)$  be a multiple of  $m(\omega)$  such that the central embedding problem  $\mathfrak{E}(\omega, \varepsilon_{m(\omega), n(\omega)})$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  is solvable. Then there is a central character  $\chi$  of order  $n(\omega)$  for  $\omega$ .*

Proof: The argument is based on [7], 2.1, p. 84. The solvability of the embedding problem implies that  $\inf(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), n(\omega)}) \in H^2(\mathcal{G}, \mu_{n(\omega)})$  is trivial. Applying the Hochschild-Serre exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(G(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)}) &\xrightarrow{\inf} \text{Hom}(\mathcal{G}, \mu_{n(\omega)}) \xrightarrow{res} \text{Hom}(\mathcal{R}(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)})^{G(\omega)} \xrightarrow{tr} \\ &\xrightarrow{tr} H^2(G(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)}) \xrightarrow{\inf} H^2(\mathcal{G}, \mu_{n(\omega)}) \end{aligned}$$

we see that there is a  $G(\omega)$ -invariant character  $\chi : \mathcal{R}(\omega) \rightarrow \mu_{n(\omega)}$  which is mapped onto  $(\varepsilon_{m(\omega), n(\omega)}) \in H^2(G(\omega), \mu_{n(\omega)})$  under the transgression homomorphism  $tr$ . The assertion follows.

(2.5) **Example** The condition that the character of a class two representation  $D$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  is rational over  $\mathbb{Q}$  implies that  $G(\omega_D)$  is elementary abelian of exponent 2 and order  $2^l$  where  $l$  is even and that the group  $\mathcal{G}/\text{Ker}(D)$  is a central extension of  $G(\omega_D)$  with kernel  $\{\pm 1\}$ .

### §3. Class two Galois representations in the case of number fields

We recall that the absolute Galois group  $\mathcal{G}_k$  of a number field  $k$  satisfies the inflation property (1.2). This fact will be used in the following without further mention. The first result in this section is the finiteness result Theorem 1 which was stated in the introduction.

(3.1) **Theorem** *Let  $k$  be a number field, let  $h$  be a positive integer and let  $S$  be a finite set of places containing all places above  $h$  and infinity. Then there are only finitely many isomorphism classes of class two representations of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  which are unramified outside  $S$  and whose characters are rational over  $\mathbb{Q}(W_h)$ .*

Proof of (3.1): The proof is based on the well known fact that for every positive integer  $d$ , for every number field  $K$  and every finite set of places  $S$  of  $K$  which contains all the infinite places of  $K$  the degree of the maximal abelian

extension  $K^{ab}(S, d)$  of  $K$  which is unramified outside  $S$  and whose Galois group  $G(K^{ab}(S, d)/K)$  has exponent dividing  $d$  is bounded from above by a positive integer depending only on  $K, S$  and  $d$ . The standard proof of this theorem uses basic results of algebraic number theory and is given e.g. in [18], Chapter VIII, Prop. 1.6, p. 194/195. It implies that there are only finitely many symplectic pairings  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$  such that the abelian extension  $K^\omega/k$  is unramified outside  $S$  and such that the exponent of the Galois group  $G(K^\omega/k)$  divides the number of roots of unity in  $\mathbb{Q}(W_h)$ . It also shows that for any such  $\omega$  there are only finitely many central characters  $\chi$  for  $\omega$  such that  $\chi$  is unramified outside the finite set of places of  $K^\omega$  which extend the places in  $S$  and such that all values of  $\chi$  belong to  $\mathbb{Q}(W_h)$ . The bijective correspondence between nontrivial central pairs of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  and isomorphism classes of class two representations of  $\mathcal{G}_k$  which was established in (2.2) implies the assertion.

The following result contains theorem 2 stated in the introduction.

**(3.2) Theorem** *Assume that  $k$  is a number field. Then for every nontrivial  $\omega \in PS(\mathcal{A}_k, \mathbb{C}^*)$  the genus of class two representations corresponding to  $\omega$  by (2.3) contains a representation  $D$  such that its character is rational over  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{\bar{b}(\omega)})$ . Moreover, if  $U(\bar{b}(\omega), S(\bar{b}(\omega))) = (k^*)^{\bar{b}(\omega)}$  then the representation  $D$  can be chosen to be unramified outside  $S(b(\omega))$ .*

Proof: (1.6), (1.7) and (2.4) imply that there is a central character  $\chi$  for  $\omega$  of order  $\bar{b}(\omega)$ , and therefore by (2.2) the character of the representation  $D(\omega, \chi)$  is rational over  $\mathbb{Q}(W_{\bar{b}(\omega)})$ . The last assertion follows from (1.9).

Applying (2.4) to the examples in (1.10) leads to examples of class two representations in the cases  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[2]{-1})$ .

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